

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-20 have been rejected as anticipated by Arsikere et al., US 6,424,653. Claims 5 and 6 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The Examiner's communication of December 20, 2005, together with the references cited therein, have been given careful consideration. After such consideration, and in an earnest effort to complete the prosecution of this application, the Applicant's representative has set down the following arguments in support of the patentability of claims 1-4 and 6-20. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1-4 and 7-20 have been rejected as anticipated by Arsikere et al., US 6,424,653. Claims 5 and 6 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

To assist the Examiner in reconsidering this application, the following is a presentation based on the language employed in claim 1 when read on the embodiment presented in Figs. 1-5 herein. Claim 1 recites a method allowing communication within a network. The method includes the steps of: transmitting a data packet as a broadcast signal from a first application node of a first subnetwork to a first gateway node of the first subnetwork; transmitting the data packet as a point-to-point signal from the first gateway node to a second gateway node of a second subnetwork; and transmitting the data packet as a broadcast signal from the second gateway node of

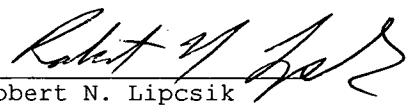
from the second gateway node of the second subnetwork to the second application node of the second subnetwork.

Amended claim 18 now also recites the broadcast signals each comprising an Ethernet Protocol Data Unit (allowable claim 6). Claim 18, as well as claims 19-20 which depend from claim 18, are in condition for allowance.

Allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this election to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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